



California Department of Veterans Affairs

NEWS FOR VETERANS

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NEWS FROM THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

TWO NEW MEMBERS ON THE CALIFORNIA VETERANS BOARD

Jake Alarid, of Whittier, has been appointed to the Veterans Board. He retired as an engineering manager for Rockwell International in 1994 after 35 years of service, during which he worked on the Apollo and Space Shuttle programs. Alarid served in the United States Marine Corps from 1952 to 1956. He is the former national commander of the American GI Forum, a founding member of the Hispanic Association for Corporate Responsibility and a member of the Veterans Outreach Program.

Alice Astafan, of Carmichael, has been appointed to the Veterans Board. She is currently the chief executive officer of the Federal Technology Center. Astafan served in the United States Air Force for over 30 years, retiring as a Major General in 1998. She served on active duty from 1960 to 1973 and in the Reserves from 1973 to 1998. Astafan is a member of the National Advisory Committee for the Federal Laboratory Consortium and serves on the board of directors for the Eskaton Corporation.

The California Department of Veterans Affairs would like to acknowledge and thank former board members, George G. Sinopoli, who served as Chairman of the California Veterans Boards several times, and Col. James C. Crump, Jr., USAF (Ret.) for their valuable contributions to the board.

Governor Pat Brown first appointed Mr. Sinopoli to the board in 1964. He was later reappointed to the board by Governor Jerry Brown and subsequently by Governor Gray Davis. Mr. Sinopoli has been recognized for his lifelong dedication to improving the quality of life of California veterans by several state and national veterans service organizations.

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger appointed Col Crump to the board. Col. Crump brought a diverse perspective to the board because of his extensive military background.

NEWS FROM THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

2006 NATIONAL SALUTE TO HOSPITALIZED VETERANS February

The week of February 14 each year is your opportunity to say thank you to a special group of men and women, the more than 98,000 veterans of the U.S. armed services who are cared for every day in Department of Veterans Affairs (USDVA) medical centers, outpatient clinics, domiciliaries, and nursing homes.

During the National Salute to Hospitalized Veterans, the USDVA invites individuals, veterans groups, military personnel, civic organizations, businesses, schools, local media, celebrities and sports stars to participate in a variety of activities at the USDVA medical centers. The activities and events include special ward visits and valentine distributions; photo opportunities; school essay contests; special recreation activities and veteran recognition programs.

The week also provides an opportunity for the community to become acquainted with the volunteer opportunities within the medical centers.

Visit the following website (<http://www1.va.gov/directory/guide/home.asp?isFlash=1>) to contact your nearest VA Medical Center and ask for Voluntary Service to discover the wonderful things you, your group or organization can do to salute America's Heroes.

Note to editors: This News For Veterans and previous CDVA News For Veterans are available on our website at www.cdva.ca.gov and via e-mail from jaimeteaga@cdva.ca.gov